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Q1

Identity-Please fill out the indicated fields.

Candidate Name: Delegate Mike Honaker
Office Seeking: WV House of Delegates
Party Affiliation: Republican
District: 46

Q2

Contact Info-Please fill out the indicated fields.

Address: PO Box 1373
City/Town: Lewisburg
State/Province: WV
ZIP/Postal Code: 24901
Country: USA
Email Address: mikehonaker4wv@gmail.com
Phone Number: 13046670555

Q3

Education & Experience-Please fill out the indicated fields.

High School Attended (Ex: School name, city, & state)

Greenbrier East High School, Fairlea, WV

Colleges Attended & Degrees Obtained (Ex: Marshall, MBA)

Northwestern University School of Police Staff and Command, Bluefield University - Criminal Justice, Lee University- Biblical Studies

Current Employer & Job Position (Ex: WVMA, Director of Operations)

911 Director & Director of Homeland Security, Greenbrier County

Describe your current job & responsibilities

Oversee personnel within department, organize and plan for disaster response

How long have you worked for your current employer?

4 years

Q4

Describe your overall philosophy toward the role of state government as it relates to business and industry.

West Virginia has to be marketed as open for business, especially toward energy development. Expansion of broadband is imperative. We need legal reform that would reduce red tape and make consequences for frivolous lawsuits businesses often deal with.

Q5

What do you bring to the office you seek? Specifically, what have you built, improved, or changed for the benefit of your community or business?

It has been my honor to spend my entire adult life in service to our nation, our state, and the communities in which I served. I served 4 years in the US Marine Corps. I am a former First Sergeant with the VA State Police where I served over 28 years. I am currently serving as the Greenbrier County Director of Homeland Security and Emergency Management. I also have the privilege of serving as Head Football and Head Wrestling Coach at Eastern Greenbrier Middle School. I was appointed Delegate in December 2021 and it was an honor to serve in the 2022 legislative session. I am committed to advocating for conservative, constitutionally sound legislation that promotes freedom and opportunity for all West Virginians.

Q6

Please list any groups, associations, or non-profits in which you are an active member or volunteer such as civic groups, labor organizations, advocacy groups.

Greenbrier County Chapter American Legion,
Communities in Schools
Gbr Co Farm Bureau

Q7

West Virginia is facing many challenges. What do you consider to be the most important and critical challenge that threatens our state and what is your plan to alleviate this threat?

I would argue that the state's biggest issues are the continued opioid epidemic and the related workforce issue. Our police need all possible available resources in this battle. Dealers must be rooted up from the source and jailed. On the user level I am in support of Christian/faith based rehab facilities and the enhancement of programs and facilities for the treatment of substance abuse.

Q8

Do you support the passage of Amendment One on the November 2022 General Election ballot? The measure provides the legislature with the authority to repeal or phase out tangible personal property in the future, this includes tax on personal vehicles, small business inventory, and tax on manufacturing inventory, machinery, and equipment.

Yes I am in favor of the Amendment.

Q9

What ideas do you have to help build our state's economy and improve West Virginia's position in competing for investment and job growth?

We must reduce the tax burden on small businesses in our state. Also we must prioritize developing our workforce. To make our state more attractive to businesses we must be able to provide an active workforce for them to draw from. We must invest wisely in trade schools. We must invest surplus money back into our people ensuring our budget stays flat in the process.

Q10

Use of and addiction to opioids in West Virginia and our region have reached crisis levels. This is a problem being recognized not only at the state level, but at the federal level. What ideas do you have to help stop this devastating trend in our state?

Answer emailed

Q11

Racial justice and equity, LGBTQ rights and gender equity are important factors for many current West Virginia employers, companies that consider moving to our State, and employees who may consider relocating to West Virginia. How would you address these issues to recruit and retain companies and employees for whom this is a priority?

Answer emailed

Q12

What are your specific ideas for addressing workforce skills gaps in industry? Specifically, with the growth of manufacturing jobs in the state and need for diverse and skilled labor, what are your ideas to prepare the state's current and future workforce for manufacturing jobs.

Answer emailed

Q13

What are your ideas for improving outcomes in the state's K-12 public education system?

Answer emailed

Q14

What ideas do you have for incorporating a focus on STEM education in our public schools and how could industry engage to support increased workforce learning models in middle and high schools, as well as career and technical education centers (vo-tech)?

Answer emailed

Q15

Please describe policies that you believe may be helpful in balancing state regulations and environmental rules while maintaining a competitive atmosphere for industrial job growth and investment?

Answer emailed

Q16

What do you think West Virginia could do to promote energy diversity including the growth of renewable energy sources in the state?

Answer emailed

Q17

Many corporations have established environmental, social, and governance criteria. How would such goals impact your decision making on relevant policy issues as a member of legislator?

Answer emailed

Q18

If you could work on a single piece of legislation to help support manufacturers with in the state of West Virginia what would it be? and Why?

Answer emailed

Q19

Would you be available for an interview remotely or in person?

Answer emailed

Q20

Where may the WVMA follow you on social media? Please list social media handles including Facebook, Twitter, and others.

Answer emailed

Delegate Mike Honaker

*Email received
after deadline on 7/19/22
@ 9:00 AM*

Questions 1-9 submitted online.

Questions 10-20:

10. Use of and addiction to opioids in WV and our region have reached crisis levels. This is a problem being recognized not only at the state level, but at the federal level. What ideas do you have to help stop this devastating trend in our state?

In order to address this, we must give our police all possible available resources. As a retired state trooper, I understand on a personal level law enforcement's battle against the opioid pandemic. Dealers must be rooted out and jailed, as they are committing murder through their actions. We cannot continue to be weak on this crime. I am in support of rehab facilities and the enhancement of programs and facilities for the treatment of substance abuse.

11. Racial justice and equity, LGBTQ rights and gender equity are important factors for many current WV employers, companies that consider moving to our State, and employees who may consider relocating to WV. How would you address these issues to recruit and retain companies and employees for whom this is a priority?

I believe that there are many laws currently in place that protect the LGBTQ community from discrimination and I would never support rights being denied to any law abiding citizen.

12. What are your specific ideas for addressing workforce skills gaps in industry? Specifically, with the growth of manufacturing jobs in the state and need for diverse and skilled labor, what are your ideas to prepare the state's current and future workforce for manufacturing jobs?

I believe we must invest in trade schools, incentivizing more students to partake. I would like to VOTECH programs and programs like the Mountaineer Challenge Academy expand.

13. What are your ideas for improving outcomes in the state's K-12 public education system?

Brilliant children are being held back from their potential because of cookie-cutter education policies. One size definitely does NOT fit all when it comes to education. Education directly correlates toward economic development and business success. I am in favor of restoring a level of discipline back into classrooms. BOTH teachers and students must be held accountable. Teacher pay should be merit-based with defined performance related targets. Improving test scores will make our state more marketable for businesses. I would like to see the expansion of VOTECH programs. The money should follow the child, and charter schools are a vital element to improving our state's education standards.

14. What ideas do you have for incorporating a focus on STEM education in our public schools and how could industry engage to support increased workforce learning models in middle and high schools, as well as career and technical education centers (vo-tech)?

The role of government can and should be to facilitate the "talent pipeline" between educational institutions and business and industry. Without picking winners and losers, government should ensure strong funding toward STEM programs and career and technical institutions. Let's invest in more programs like the new JumpStart savings program that can help kids save toward a technical career. Young people must gain a knowledge of the wealth of opportunity in these needed positions, careers that truly will last a lifetime. Manufacturers should always be given a seat at the "career day" table in schools. I would advocate for more placement programs in schools that help students start the relationships with manufacturers that can lead to long term careers.

15. Please describe policies that you believe may be helpful in balancing state regulations and environmental rules while maintaining a competitive atmosphere for industrial job growth and investment.

Business profitability depends heavily on a clean and productive environment. Rules and regulations must be based on sound science and not hype or hysteria. Industries should always be involved when potential new regulations are being discussed. Benefits of any regulations have provable advantage compared to the cost. We must use common sense conservatism in regards to this issue.

16. What do you think WV could do to promote energy diversity including the growth of renewable energy sources in the state?

Coal is far from dead and has made a recent small comeback. But that does not mean we can rely on it forever. The key word is to be PROACTIVE by working on a comprehensive plan to phase West Virginia over time into more renewables. I am in favor of re-looking at the benefits of nuclear power, expanding upon natural gas and shale extraction, while also investing in turning reclaimed mine land into solar energy stations and other renewable options. I also believe that hydroelectric power is a completely unexplored area that West Virginia has the capability through our rivers to investigate further.

17. Many corporations have established environmental, social, and governance criteria. How would such goals impact your decision making on relevant policy issues as a member of legislator?

The criteria set by these manufacturers are meant to ensure conservative use of resources, eliminate waste, and build toward a better society. Government should encourage these criteria sets and not interfere in their design through overregulation. Modern manufacturers care about being good stewards of the resources around them and helping society grow to its highest potential.

18. If you could work on a single piece of legislation to help support manufacturers within the state of WV what would it be and why?

We must dismantle the business and inventory tax. It is the number one hindrance for not only manufacturers, but for growth for the State of West Virginia. It is a complete priority. We have the surplus revenue to make a difference. Let's start with this burdensome tax.

19. Would you be available for an interview remotely or in person?

Yes I would be available for either option.

20. Where may the WVMA follow you on social media? Please list social media handles including Facebook, Twitter, and others.

Facebook: Delegate Mike Honaker for West Virginia

Instagram: Delegate Mike Honaker